

Jarrard House
Campus of Douglass College, between George St.
and the river bluff, and opposite to Nichol Ave.
New Brunswick
Middlesex County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-718

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NJ
12-NEBR
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

JARRARD HOUSE

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Location: Campus of Douglass College, between George St. and the river bluff, and opposite to Nichol Ave., New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Present Owner: Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Present Occupant: Rutgers University.

Present Use: Douglass College administration building.

Brief Statement of Significance: Built 1866-1874, this is a well preserved example of the large brownstone mansions of the period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: Levi D. Jarrard (1866-1919); Carpenter family; Rutgers University.
- B. Date of erection: 1866-1874.
- C. Notes on alterations and additions: Except for one porch which has been enclosed with windows, the house is unaltered.
- D. Important old views: Old and new photos in Rutgers University Library.
- E. Sources of information: Middlesex County deeds, L10 p.667; L657 p.445.

Prepared by Donald A. Sinclair, Curator of Special Collections, Rutgers University Library
New Brunswick, New Jersey
September 1960

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement: Built 1866-1874, this is a handsome, irregularly shaped, two-story and attic, brownstone mansion, with Victorian features typical of the period. It has been maintained in very good condition.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Plan: The building has a rectangular central mass with two short wings, two bay windows, and four porches. The building is two stories in height with lighted, third floor or attic spaces with gabled dormers. A four-story tower is centered on the facade.
2. Foundations: There is a full basement under the house with ashlar, seam-faced brownstone walls showing from grade to a cut brownstone water table with a beveled top.
3. Walls: The walls are ashlar, seam-faced brownstone. The corners are quoined in dressed brownstone, set flush with the face of the walls. Door and window openings are rusticated, flush with the face of the wall, with horizontal, segmental or semi-circular lintels.
4. Bay windows: There are two bay windows. One on the left or west elevation is three-sided with one, four light over four light, double hung window in each face. It is two stories high with a flat, projecting, modillioned cornice. The other, on the right or east elevation, is five-sided, with one, four light over four light, double-hung window in each of the outer three faces. It is one story high with shallow, ribbed, metal covered eaves, pitched to a flat roof.
5. Porches: An entrance porch, turned around the southwest corner of the building, is four bays long on each side. The approach to the front door at the foot of the tower is through the right hand bay of the south side. The porch roof is nearly flat and has an overhanging cornice with plain modillions. It is supported by built-up wood columns with chamfered edges, and with capitals, neckings, bases, and paneled pedestals. The entrance bay is gabled and has a flat elliptical arch between the two columns. The flat roof is metal covered.

A second porch is received by a set-back on the south front of the house to the right of the main entrance. Its two outer sides are enclosed with muntined sash so that it serves as a sun porch. This porch has a similar cornice, but it has concave, ribbed metal eaves, sloping to a flat roof.

The third porch, on the right or east side of the building is three bays long, running from the bay window to the rear of the building. Its square, wood columns are chamfered, with caps, neckings, and bases. It has a similar, modillioned cornice and a flat metal roof.

The fourth porch, similar to the third, is at the rear of the building with its long side against the rear wall of the main body of the house. It is open on two sides and has a door to the rear of the central hall of the house.

All porches have wood floors and wood steps, and are supported on brick piers. The spaces between the piers are covered with lattice panels.

6. Windows: The first floor has four light over four light, double-hung windows, which have horizontal lintels, except those of the room behind the sun porch, which are segmental. The second floor has two light over two light, double-hung windows with various types of lintels. Third floor gable windows and tower windows are double hung, four light over four light, and have semi-circular lintels. Windows are grouped horizontally in two's and three's and aligned vertically.
7. Tower: Over the entrance is a brownstone tower at the corner of a set-back on the south front of the building. The front face of the tower is flush with the main wall of the facade on the left, but the right or east elevation of the tower forms the set-back of the facade. The tower is four stories high with a blind third story. There is a projecting wood cornice, with five band-sawed brackets on each side. The roof is hipped at a very shallow pitch, and is covered with metal.
8. Chimneys: There are four husky, brick chimneys with high bases, stepped-back shafts with recessed, circle-headed paneled sides and corbeled caps.
9. Roofs: The main roof is slate covered. Bays, porches and tower are metal covered.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Plan: There are front and rear doors to a central hall.
2. Floors: The floor of the first floor hall is ceramic tile in pattern with a rich three-membered border. There is also a tile floor in the vestibule which forms the base of the tower. All other floors are wood.
3. Stairs: There is a rich, broad, U-shaped main stairway to the second floor. A very heavy moulded rail above turned and faceted balusters starts from a paneled newel

post with a slight outward flair, and curves back at the landing. The stairway continues to the second floor without newel posts. The stairs are boxed in at the first floor with small moulded panels of various sizes.

4. Trim: The hall has a high paneled wainscot of short panels over tall panels with raised paneling and moulding. A heavily moulded top rail contains an ornamental band of glazed ceramic tile. This wainscot continues up the stairway. Doorways in the hall have carved and paneled pilaster-type trim supporting cornice-type lintels with curved and paneled heads above, and paneled jambs.

Most of the principal rooms have run-plaster cornices. All woodwork in the hall is walnut.

5. Doors: The doors off the hall are extremely heavy and large, having eighteen raised and moulded panels. The panels are arranged three rows wide with a band of short panels at the bottom, then tall panels, then two bands of short panels, tall panels again, and topped with a band of short panels.
6. Mantel: Surrounding a chimney breast projecting into the entrance hall is an elaborate fireplace with mantel and over-mantel. The fireplace is brick lined with a circle-headed, brick-faced opening and a glazed tile hearth flush with the floor. The wood facing has a moulded, many-membered, rectangular-shaped surround with eared outer member, all set on a moulded base block. The spandrels are fan-carved. Above the surround and below the shelf with its supporting mouldings is a band of glazed ceramic tile matching and continuous with the band on the hall wainscot. The sides of the mantel are paneled similar to the wainscot. The over-mantel has a bevel-plated mirror, divided into nine parts by wood muntins and flanked by two vertical sets of small panels. Above this group is an entablature with a cornice and bottom moulding. Above the entablature is an elaborately carved coved cornice. This main cornice is supported on two pairs of elongated, narrow brackets from the mantel shelf. Above the main cornice is a small, turned balustrade. Outside the brackets, but still forming part of the over-mantel, is a vertical string of small panels, similar to those flanking the mirror and running as high as the cornice. All this woodwork is walnut.

7. Lighting fixtures: Modern, electric.

Prepared by George Brokaw Howell
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